

Teleconference Summary

July 12, 2013 (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PDT)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m., July 12, 2013, by the Chair of the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB or the Board), Dr. Tracy Collier. Two members of the Board were physically present at the teleconference location in Sacramento: Richard Norgaard and Jay Lund. Five members attended by phone: Brian Atwater, Tracy Collier, Harindra (Joe) Fernando, Vince Resh, and John Wiens. Resh and Wiens attended as members of the public. Elizabeth Canuel and Judy Meyer were absent.

None of the Delta ISB members made any new disclosures.

Delta Science Program (DSP) Staff in attendance were: Rainer Hoenicke, Marina Brand, and Joanne Vinton.

2. Discuss and approve comment letter on the first draft Delta Science Plan

Collier explained the process that was used to prepare the Board's comments on the first draft of the Delta Science Plan (Plan). First, members sent their comments to Collier, Lund, and Wiens, who compiled the comments into a draft letter. Next, the draft letter was sent to all Board members for review. Then Board members sent their comments on the draft letter to Collier, Lund, and Wiens, who edited the letter to produce the [second draft](#).

Norgaard asked who the audience was for the letter. He suggested that it should have a broader audience than the Delta Science Program (DSP). Hoenicke explained that the Plan is a DSP product, but it was written after discussions with agency managers and many scientists. The Plan is one element of a three-part strategy with the other two elements consisting of a Science Action Agenda and update of *The State of Bay Delta Science*. The Science Action Agenda will be a collaborative effort with the other agencies. Brand suggested sending copies of the final letter to the same agencies shown on the distribution list for the habitat restoration report. Collier agreed.

Wiens suggested adding a statement to encourage the DSP to collaborate more with other agencies while working on the second draft of the Plan. Hoenicke said that meetings were being set up with agencies, stakeholders, and non-profit groups.

Board members discussed the bolded sentence on page 1 of the letter. Lund said that supporting remarks should follow the bolded statement. Atwater agreed. Fernando said that his impression of the meaning of the sentence in bold was that the Board was calling for a larger transformation of organizations, which might require changing agency structure. He thought that DSP's intent, though, is not to change agency structures, but to tap the full potential of the agencies. Collier agreed, and said that is why the letter calls for a larger transformation. Wiens wants the Plan to call for more transformation, but does not want the letter to go into detail about how agencies should be restructured. Resh also recommended staying away from details. The Board approved the [comment letter with suggested edits](#).

Collier said that a small group of Board members would work with DSP on the next draft of the Plan.

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Board members discussed their individual comments that were not included in the comment letter. They decided to send their individual comments to Vinton, who will combine them into one document and send them to all Board members.

Public Comment

Valerie Connor, State and Federal Contractors Water Agency, said that the Delta Science Plan needs to be clear about the cost of transforming the way Delta science is currently organized. She recommended that there be a three-phase process based on budget. The three phases would consist of what the DSP could do now, what it will take to reach the final objective, and the steps in-between. Collier agreed that the final Plan needs to include funding.

3. Public Comment (For matters that were not on the agenda, but within subject matter jurisdiction of the Delta ISB.)

None.

4. Prepare for the next Delta ISB meeting

The August meeting was cancelled. A small group of Board members will meet with DSP on August 8 to discuss the Delta Science Plan. The next meeting will be September 12 and 13. The Board also plans to meet on October 28, the day before the State of the Estuary conference and end the meeting around 1:00 p.m.

10:58 a.m. – Adjourned